

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 20391 171124Z  
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /028 W  
----- 042539 /43  
R 171115Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8866

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PASS TO S/CL

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OVIP (DAVIES, JOHN)  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY-DESIGNATE  
VANCE

1. JOHN DAVIES, SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY, HAS EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN VISITING WASHINGTON EARLY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN ORDER TO MEET SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE. DAVIES APPRECIATES THAT VANCE WILL BE INUNDATED WITH SIMILAR REQUESTS, BUT ASKS THAT SOME NOTE BE MADE OF HIS NOW SO THAT IT CAN BE FACTORED IN WHEN VANCE'S CALENDAR IS DRAWN UP.

2. HERewith REPEATED ARE BIOGRAPHIC NOTES ON DAVIES PREPARED BY US FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FOR HIS MEETING WITH DAVIES HERE IN LONDON DECEMBER 12: "TRADE SECRETARY AND CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER (WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BRITAIN'S EC POLICY) DURING THE HEATH GOVERNMENT, DAVIES, AGED 60, WAS NAMED CONSERVATIVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN LAST MONTH, REPLACING REGINALD MAUDLING. A RIGHT-WING TORY, DAVIES IS INTEL-LIGENT, ARTICULATE AND ABLE. HE HAS A STRONG COMMITMENT TO EUROPE. DAVIES WAS MRS. THATCHER'S ORIGINAL CHOICE AS EC COMMISSIONER TO REPLACE CHRISTOPHER SOAMES. HOW-EVER, EC PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE ROY JENKINS OBJECTED TO  
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DAVIES' APPOINTMENT AND THE NOMINATION WAS REJECTED BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. HIS POLITICAL RISE WAS METEORIC: SIX WEEKS AFTER DAVIES WAS ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1970, HEATH NAMED HIM TRADE SECRETARY. PREVIOUSLY DAVIES HAD BEEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY (CBI), THE BRITISH EQUIVALENT OF THE NAM, AND AN OIL COMPANY EXECUTIVE."

3. WE URGE SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE TO AGREE TO MEET DAVIES REASONABLY EARLY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. AS YOU KNOW FROM OUR REPORTING, WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT EXPECT A GENERAL ELECTION IN BRITAIN ANYTIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS VOLATILE AND IT WOULD BE WELL FOR THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO GET TO KNOW KEY MEMBERS OF BRITAIN'S "ALTERNATE GOVERNMENT" FAIRLY SOON.

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## Message Attributes

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